



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
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Sheriff

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Lt. Cynthia Brooks Receives

On Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 2 pm **Lt. Cynthia Brooks** was honored at Lakeland Community College when she was be presented with the **Woman of Achievement Award**. The presentation ceremony, held in the Gallery of Performing Arts Center of Lakeland Community College, paid tribute to Lt. Brooks as a woman whose life personifies a spirit of generosity, dedication and caring in making a difference in the lives of women. To date, 26 women have been honored with the Award. The important contribution each has made demonstrates a commitment to their work, their community, and the well-being of their fellow citizens.

Newsherald reporter Caitlin Fertal spoke about Lt. Brooks in a recent Newsherald article. *"By day, Lt. Cynthia Brooks is the lieutenant at the Lake County Sheriff's Office. But when her shift ends, she attends Lakeland Community College to get her criminal justice degree. Brooks said she has been working in corrections at the Lake County Sheriff's Office for the past 27 years and wants to fulfill her goal of earning her degree and being promoted to captain. She also has started the Women In Transition Through Support program at the Lake County Jail, which assists women who want to re-enter the community in a more productive way, Brooks said. "We were having problems with the women in the jail. They were constantly fighting and we had to do something about it," Brooks said. It is efforts like these that has caught the attention of the Lakeland Community College Women's Center, which will be honoring Brooks and other area women who make a difference in their career by helping other women improve their lives, said Program Coordinator Mary Garfield. Brooks said she knows that being a female in her field is a tough job. "(It is) definitely a struggle. When I started back in 1984 there were only four females," Brooks said. "I can say that there are still men today that think that females should not work in corrections. They think we should work in the front office or dispatch."*

We commend Lt. Brooks for her commitment and excellence!